

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 894
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor Gary Hensley upon the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of Maryville, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is pleased to recognize the contributions of those Tennesseans who, throughout their working careers and years of public service, have made significant contributions to their communities and have provided outstanding leadership while improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gary Hensley is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; throughout his exemplary 28-year tenure as City Manager of Maryville, he has proven himself to be a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kingsport, Gary Hensley is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a master's degree in City Management; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hensley served as City Manager and Executive Director of the Housing Authority in Loudon for seven years before taking office as City Manager of Maryville in June of 1978; after an unprecedented 28 years in this position, he will take a well deserved retirement on July 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, it is his distinct honor to be the only city manager in Tennessee with 28 years of service to one city. When Mr. Hensley came to Maryville, the city population was about 16,000; he departs the helm of a city with about 25,000 people; and

WHEREAS, included amongst Gary Hensley's long list of accomplishments are the extension of the City's Greenway Trails, the development of the Foothills Mall, the new Maryville Municipal Center, the growth and development of the City of Maryville organization, and the revitalization of Maryville downtown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hensley was instrumental in bringing Ruby Tuesday's corporate headquarters to the downtown area in 1996; currently the City has \$6.5 million in grants for the construction of a pedestrian bridge connecting the new county library with the downtown, new or enhanced sidewalks, a new parking garage, and plans for a tree-lined linear park; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of Gary Hensley's tenure has been his constant search for new and innovative ways to cooperatively stretch tax dollars, and his projects have saved the City millions of dollars over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hensley developed close intergovernmental relationships with Alcoa and Blount County governments, and in 1999 the governments received the International City County Management Association's (ICMA) Program Excellence Award for Intergovernmental Cooperation, recognizing the programs the governments developed through cooperative and strategic partnerships. Their joint efforts include two industrial park partnerships in which each community shares in the land, development, and maintenance costs of the parks; at the time, it was the only joint venture of its type in the country and served as a model to other communities throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, in the area of economic development during his 28 years with the City, Gary Hensley has increased the number of businesses and industries, recruiting national and international commercial and industrial businesses; the county's largest employer, automotive parts manufacturer DENSO, located in Maryville in 1988 and has recently announced a \$185 million expansion that will bring 500 new jobs to the area; and

WHEREAS, Gary Hensley has more than met the challenge of successfully running a city government, while constantly striving to maintain those services that benefit the common interest of the community. Proving himself to be an effective leader with remarkable vision, Mr. Hensley has gained the respect of council members, community members, city employees, and other City Managers; and

WHEREAS, responding to the announcement of Mr. Hensley's impending retirement, Maryville Mayor Joe Swann said, "There couldn't be a bigger spot to fill. He has basically shaped the city of Maryville during that period."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hensley epitomizes the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his meritorious service to the City notwithstanding, Gary Hensley is most grateful for the constant love and support of his wife, Sherry, their three children, and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he plans to enjoy his retirement by serving as a consultant for the City, with a focus on continued industrial recruitment, as well as taking a few college classes and pursuing his avid interest in archaeology; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," Gary Hensley's dedication to progress, his foresight, and his boundless energy have tendered a profound, positive impact upon the lives of the people of Maryville, and he is worthy of much praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Gary Hensley in recognition of his 28 years of meritorious service as the City Manager of Maryville, extend our sincerest gratitude for his inspiring leadership and all of his good works within the community, and offer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement as well as every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.